

Application No. 10/628887
Amendment dated 27 September 2005
Reply to Office Action of 27 June 2005

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace Figure 4 with the amended drawing as set out in the enclosed replacement sheet.

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REMARKS

In the Specification

The Applicant has amended the specification for clarity only. The amendments to the specification are submitted to be completely supported by the application as originally filed and to add no new matter.

In the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.84(p). The Applicant has amended Figure 4 to address the Examiner's objections by removing a duplicate reference numeral 52 and by adding a reference numeral 64. These amendments to Figure 4 are shown on the enclosed replacement sheet. Figure 4 is otherwise unaltered.

The Applicant submits that the amendments to Figure 4 add no new matter to the application. The Applicant submits further that the amendments to Figure 4 obviate the Examiner's objections to the drawings.

In the Claims

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 13-17 and has added new claims 19-31. Both the amendments to claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 13-17 and new claims 19-31 are submitted to be completely supported by the application as originally filed and to add no new matter.

Claims 1-31 are pending after this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter - Claims 4-10 and 14-18

Claim 18 is allowed.

The Examiner has also allowed claim 14. The Applicant has amended claim 14 to correct an antecedent reference. Claim 14 is otherwise unaltered and is submitted to be allowable.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of features of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended claim 4 to incorporate the features of claims 1 and 2 and

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has amended claim 10 to incorporate the features of claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claims 4 and 10 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 5-9 depend from claim 4 and are submitted to be allowable for at least this reason.

The Examiner has raised 35 USC § 112 in connection with claims 15-17, but has indicated that claims 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten to comply with 35 USC § 112. The Applicant has amended claims 15 to 17 to properly recite that claims 15-17 depend from independent method claim 14. The Applicant submits that claims 15-17 (as amended) particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded to be the invention in compliance with 35 USC § 112. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claims 15-17 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 11 and 12

The Examiner has raised US Patent No. 4,374,397 (Mir) in connection with claims 1-3, 11 and 12. The Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 11 and 12 patentably distinguish Mir.

As understood by the Applicant, Mir discloses a light valve which includes an array having a plurality of location-address sectors, each location-address sector including a plurality of discrete light valve pixel portions which are electrically addressable to control the passage of light. Each light valve pixel portion is coupled for common electrical address with one light valve pixel portion of each of the other location-address sectors, so as to form inter-sector groups, but each light valve pixel portion is also independently addressable with respect to light valve pixel portions of its own location-address sector.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a light valve comprising "a plurality of channels, each channel driveable independently of each of the other channels in response to a single driver input signal to output a corresponding radiation beam from the light valve, the channels and their corresponding output radiation beams having non-uniform sizes". Mir fails to teach or suggest this combination of features. More particularly, the Mir light valve assembly (13) requires a plurality of driver signals to generate each output beam that is emitted therefrom.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5, to produce an output beam, the Mir light valve assembly (13) requires a first selectively actuatable driver input (i.e. high voltage switch means (45, 46, 47) connected to shift register (SR-1)) to activate the low resolution information address sectors A, B, C, etc. of low resolution panel (35) and a second selectively actuatable driver

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input (i.e. high voltage switches (41, 42, 43, 44) connected to switch register (SR-2)) to activate the pixel portions A₁-A₄, B₁-B₄, C₁-C₄, etc. of its high resolution panel (31). This requirement of the Mir light valve assembly (13) is explicitly described at col. 5, ln. 56 to col. 6, ln. 2, where Mir states "each of information-address sectors A, B, C of panel 35 have their addressing electrodes ... connectable to a source of high voltage 'V' by high voltage switch means 45, 46, 47. Switch means 45, 46, 47 are in turn actuatable between an on-off condition by serial-in, parallel-out shift register SR-1. As described in more detail below, successive sets of information signals ... are cyclically input to the shift register SR-1 and output in synchronization with the activation of switches 41-44 by SR-2 ...".

Based on this reasoning, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes Mir. Claims 2, 3, 11 and 12 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 13

The Examiner has raised Mir in connection with claim 13. The Applicant submits that claim 13 patentably distinguishes Mir.

Claim 13, as amended, recites an imaging system comprising "a light valve having a plurality of channels, each channel driveable independently of each of the other channels in response to a single driver input signal to output a corresponding radiation beam from the light valve, the channels and their corresponding output radiation beams having non-uniform sizes".

As discussed above, Mir fails to teach or suggest this combination of features. In contrast, the Mir light valve assembly (13) requires a plurality of driver signals to generate each output beam that is emitted therefrom.

Based on this reasoning, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 patentably distinguishes Mir.

New Claims 19-31

The Applicant has added new claims 19-31.

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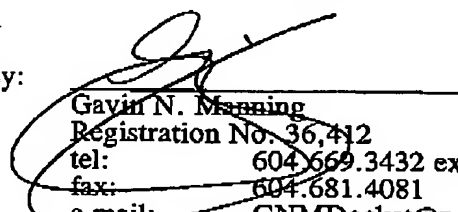
The Applicant submits that new claims 19-31 contain no new matter and that new claims 19-31 patentably distinguish the prior art of record.

Conclusions

In view of the amendments and comments provided above, the Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and comments.

Respectfully submitted,
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